

I have consistently called on the administration to declassify and provide the American people with information regarding the capture, the detention, and a threat assessment of each detainee they intend to release into the U.S. Regardless of their intended targets of terror, the American people deserve to know whether they have been either further radicalized due to their exposure to al Qaeda leaders, such as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and see the assessments of the threat they pose today.

I also worry about the impact the Uyghurs' release will have on our national security in the long run. What message does their release into the U.S. send to al Qaeda and other terrorist networks? How can the Attorney General guarantee that the released Uyghurs will not stay in contact with al Qaeda and provide them with intelligence from within the U.S.? If the Attorney General cannot or will not answer these questions, then he should not even consider releasing them into the United States. The administration has a moral obligation to share this information with the American people.

Over the last month, both the House and Senate have stripped all funding for these transfers and inserted language into the fiscal year 2009 emergency supplemental bill that would require the administration to provide the American people with a clear plan before any action was taken. Since March, I have written the President, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Homeland Security asking for answers to these and other questions, and I still have not received a single response. I repeat, not a single response after 2 months to some of the most basic questions about the administration's plans.

For weeks I have asked the FBI for briefings daily, only to be told that the Attorney General would not allow them to meet with Members on these issues. And although the President delivered a speech on May 21 at the National Archives on the closing of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay and other national security matters, we have had no more information about his plans to close Guantanamo than we did before. We still do not have the answers on which detainees Eric Holder is planning to transfer to the United States, where they will be tried, and how the administration intends to protect the American people.

The Germans, who had tentatively agreed to accept some of the Uyghur detainees, have complained that the administration won't share enough information with them for an independent assessment of the detainees' security risk. According to the Washington Post, "More trouble emerged when Washington stipulated that the Uyghurs would be barred from traveling to the United States." Last week, the Canadian Government refused to accept these same Uyghur detainees, citing serious security concerns.

So as I close where I began, congressional oversight is imperative, no more so than on matters with profound national security implications, and yet this Congress and the American people remain in the dark about the administration's plans on this pressing issue.

This is no time for vague assurances. This is no time to play fast and loose with critical information. This is no time for political games. The American people deserve more.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KILROY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is proud to anchor this hour.

Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. My name is Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, representing the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, and I will anchor this hour.

CBC members are advocates for humanity, nationally and internationally, and have played a significant role as local and regional activists. We work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress. But understand, all politics are local; therefore, we provide dedicated and focused service to the citizens of the congressional districts we serve.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus—to promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens—continues to be a focus for our legislative work and our political activities. Tonight's hour will focus on the unemployment crisis in this country.

Just last week, Madam Speaker, the national unemployment numbers were released and the situation is dire. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that nationally another 345,000 people lost their jobs in the month of May. The total unemployment nationally has risen above 9 percent. For African Americans, Madam Speaker, that statistic is much greater. African Americans suffer unemployment at a rate of almost 15 percent.

Over one-quarter of the 14.5 million individuals who are jobless have been unemployed for at least 6 months. Not only are they concerned about finding a job, but they are now fearful their benefits will soon expire.

In my home State of Ohio, the situation is even worse. We have entered double-digit unemployment with a rate of over 10 percent. Not only must we work to help the newly unemployed, but we must assist the chronically unemployed who are many times forgotten.

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On Friday, I heard from economist Dr. Paul Harrington at the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northwestern University. He gave three recommendations to deal with the job crisis: number one, radically expand the job training; number two, establish a connection between schools and jobs; and, number three, engage in direct job training activities.

We need to assist the unemployed by retooling them, preparing them for employment opportunities now and for the future. We must always remember that when we work on health care reform, energy, tax legislation, we too must focus on the economy. Our national attention must remain focused on job creation and saving sustainable jobs for our workforce and to prepare them for new or better employment as opportunities present themselves because it is most important that we say to our people that there is a future.

And that is why the topic today is so very important, Madam Speaker. Nationally, we have a unique opportunity through these difficult times to help our workforce. We must reinvent and reenergize our workforce with new training opportunities in existing and emerging industries. In my district, doing so involves investing time, money, and energy into health care, bioscience, advanced manufacturing, logistics and transportation, advanced energy and information technology.

As of April, the State of Ohio's unemployment rate reached 10.2 percent, up from 6.2 percent the same time last year. There are thousands of unemployed and underemployed individuals who must enhance their skills to become competitive in this knowledge-based economy which has now defined our Nation's economy. A strong public consensus supports enhancing the skills of America's workers especially through high-quality education and training. In today's environment, the demand for workers to fill mid-level jobs is quite high and will likely remain high in key sectors of our economy. These mid-level jobs require more education than a high school diploma or a GED but less education than a 4-year degree. In Ohio, nearly 55 percent of all jobs are mid-level jobs, and many of these jobs receiving the new Federal job creation dollars are in health care, green jobs, infrastructure, and construction. Unfortunately, only 45 percent of workers in Ohio have the skill sets for these jobs.

Alarmingly, Madam Speaker, the National Commission on Adult Literacy recently reported that 30 million adults score at "below basic" levels on assessment tests, meaning they can perform

no more than the most rudimentary literacy tasks. Another 63 million adults are only able to perform only simple, basic everyday literacy tasks. Consequently, Madam Speaker, we have a mismatch between skills of our Nation's workforce, and we must have the ability to succeed and the skills our Nation's workforce actually possesses. What we need to do is match those skills and the people who need jobs.

Years ago, our Nation established a number of workforce development programs to meet this demand by preparing workers for mid-level jobs. Since that time, Federal education and training policies have invested very little in these jobs. Investments in the programs that prepare middle-skilled workers have plummeted. As a result, too many workers struggle to find decent jobs, and too many employers struggle to find skilled employees.

Education and training institutions like community colleges are at the forefront in identifying emerging market demand and training workers to meet 21st century employer needs for professional or career-path opportunities. It is critical that our Federal workforce development policy support the kind of work they are doing.

Cuyahoga Community College, or, as we call it at home, Tri-C, established the Center for Healthcare Solutions, which specializes in fast-track training, allowing displaced workers an opportunity to quickly transition into living wage occupations such as State-tested nursing assistant, dental office assistant, the medical coding specialist that provides stackable credentials and opportunities for rapid career advancement. To meet the needs of a growing health care sector, Tri-C has partnered with the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Investment Board to offer State-tested nursing assistant training at the Employment Connection, which is our local one-stop career center. The partnership removes barriers to success for clients by providing wraparound services, which are fundamental skills job training and placement services.

With over 60 hospitals, 30 colleges and universities, strong manufacturing capabilities, and billions of dollars in public and private investment, northeast Ohio is poised to become a biomedical hub. The business development organization BioEnterprise reports that the biomedical industry has grown more than 30 percent in the last 5 years, helping northeast Ohio become home to over 600 biomedical companies. Tri-C offers training for all facets of this growing industry through its one-of-a-kind bioscience laboratory featuring medical device manufacturing, pharmaceutical drug manufacturing, and business startups through its Key Entrepreneur Center for Sustainability.

In 2007, approximately 1,500 positions were unfilled in the bioscience industry due to the lack of a trained workforce. It is estimated that approximately 900

of the unfilled positions are in the functional areas of manufacturing and quality control. We have to bridge this disconnect, Madam Speaker, and help obtain the skill set for this job and others like it. Tri-C's Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Center was honored with Team NEO's Economic Development Impact Award for developing a remedy for this workforce shortage. The center has more than 12,000 square feet of renovated space and more than \$6 million of modern equipment and tooling simulators.

Although manufacturing jobs have decreased significantly over the last 30 years, the manufacturing sector in and around my district provides nearly 300,000 jobs, which is 15 percent of the total workforce. It also generates \$36 billion in gross regional product, which is 20 percent of the total gross regional product. Many of the low-skilled occupations have left the region, but there is a significant number of high-skilled, high-wage-paying jobs in advanced manufacturing. This increasingly computerized sector requires a new set of skills. Model job training would work hand in hand with employers to develop customized training for state-of-the-art equipment. Locally, we have developed a Ford Manufacturing Technician Program that is offered for Ford workers at the regional plants for college credit.

Transportation and logistics is also an in-demand sector because of our local regional concentration of warehouses and factories. Utilizing labor market intelligence, the Regional Transportation Institute features a truck driving institute and radio frequency identification lab that sits on the cutting edge of logistics and material tracking systems. Cleveland, Madam Speaker, is within 500 miles of 43 percent of the United States population and is ideally situated as a transportation and logistics hub. The occupations are high tech and hands on.

Recognizing the increasing need for construction contractors to interpret green job specifications, the Green Academy and Center for Sustainability was developed in the fall of 2008. The academy offers both professional development training in the areas of sustainable business practices, Leadership and Energy in Environmental Design accreditation and certification along with a multitude of other offerings in the new green economy requested by businesses and the community. Through GACS, the Pathways to Green Jobs programs will transition at-risk populations into green occupations through training opportunities in deconstruction, weatherization, wind turbine components, manufacturing, and solar panel installation. The first Pathways class, consisting largely of formerly incarcerated individuals and people lacking permanent homes, provide soft skills training along with contextualized hands-on training in a green job.

Federal workforce development programs have faced extremely deep funding cuts over the past 8 years. The Workforce Investment Act, or WIA, and the Wagner-Peyser Employment Services lost more than \$9 billion in funding since 2001, reducing the capacity of our national workforce system to respond even to normal levels of demand for skilled workers, let alone the extraordinary demands for job training and reemployment services we now face.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made nearly \$4 billion in new funding available through the Department of Labor for jobs training programs. Just under \$3 billion of this funding has already gone out to States through formula grants under the Workforce Investment Act. Speaking with the Deputy Director of Workforce Training in Cuyahoga County, I learned that the county will receive nearly \$14 million in training. The money will help dislocated adults and youth workers. Another \$750 million is due to go out in the form of competitive grants to train people in green jobs, health care, and other high-demand sectors.

There are funds from the Recovery Act that are available to agencies to create jobs in the energy efficiency and renewable energy fields, build roads and bridges, create a new broadband infrastructure, address our Nation's ever-growing health care needs, retrofit public housing and government buildings, and weatherize hundreds of thousands of homes for low-income homeowners. While some of these jobs can be filled by displaced workers already in the affected sectors, many more will be filled by workers dislocated from other sectors like young people entering the labor market for the first time and disadvantaged individuals who previously lacked the skills and opportunities. We cannot expect untrained workers to simply show up at a work site "shovel ready."

It is essential that institutions and training facilities have the capacity and resources necessary to identify the emerging needs of the region in order to best prepare the workforce for life-long employability. Tri-C is currently serving as a regional co-coordinator for the Ohio Skills Bank initiative through Governor Strickland's Turnaround Ohio plan. The Ohio Skills Bank shares Tri-C's goals of having seamless career pathways and certifications that allow adult workers to earn college credit while increasing their job skills and, ultimately, their wages. Employers must create and implement these programs. Through the Ohio Skills Bank, northeast Ohio has decided to first focus on the health care, manufacturing, and information technology sectors as key industries that have immediate workforce needs.

My region is poised to leverage funding made available through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

with an existing and nimble infrastructure focusing on career pathways, industry partnerships, and increased training. To best address emerging industry needs with a new kind of workforce that requires a high level of transferrable skills, it is necessary to adjust funding structures so that training opportunities are accessible and usable. The United States Department of Labor has asked that each State revise their State Workforce Investment Act plans to reflect the strategies they intend to pursue and implement these goals. States have the opportunity to increase training capacity through the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act with a few key shifts in how the funding is structured.

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To increase training, as prioritized by Congress, funding must directly support educational training facilities. This will allow institutions like Tri-C to increase capacity and provide a more effective, less expensive way of receiving immediate training. A few ways to achieve this would be for Congress to eliminate the mandatory sequence of services that very often hurts individuals seeking job training, thereby slowing down the process by which people access the services they need most. In the majority of cases, strong worker training would be the answer. An increased emphasis on training must be coupled with direct support for the development of additional training at community colleges.

A second way to improve the program is through the authorization of Community-Based Job Training Grants created in 2004. These grants build the capacity of community colleges to train workers and develop the skills necessary for success in high-growth and high-demand industries. Finally, Congress should give local workforce investment groups greater flexibility to utilize training contracts. This is especially helpful with low-tuition training providers. We have the opportunity to think broadly about the most effective ways to deliver Workforce Investment Act funds at the regional and local levels. This would ensure the proper mix between participant access to training and the development of training capacity. The Community-Based Job Training Grants provide a model for examining possible reforms of service delivery under the adult and dislocated worker program.

It appears that we are moving toward a pyramid economy, with a small number of highly skilled jobs at the top, a large number of low-skill, low-paying jobs at the bottom, and relatively few middle-class, mid-level jobs, which actually drove the unprecedented growth of our Nation's economy in the 20th century and made the American Dream a reality for millions of families. But the reality is that mid-level jobs still account for almost half the jobs in this country and will continue to be the largest job segment in the economy for

years to come. As we look to reform our workforce development system to meet the demands of the 21st century labor market, we need to make sure we focus on proven strategies that help workers acquire the skills necessary to fill these jobs and ensure that employers have a skilled workforce which is able to compete in today's global economy. Two strategies emerged as best practices at the State level—sector partnerships and career pathways. Both can help us achieve this goal, and we should ensure that a reauthorized WIA supports these strategies.

Sector partnerships work by bringing together multiple stakeholders in a specific industry with the interest in developing and implementing workforce development strategies that can contribute to local and regional growth. These stakeholders include firms, labor organization, education and training providers, community-based organizations, and State and local agencies. Sector approaches draw upon the experience of many partners who improve worker training, retention and advancement by developing cross-firm skill standards, career ladders, job redefinitions, and shared training and support capacities that facilitate the advancement of workers at all skill levels, including the least skilled. An emerging body of research demonstrates that sector strategies can provide significant positive outcomes for workers, including increased wages and greater job security.

Sector strategies have become an integral part of the way some States respond to local and regional workforce needs. For example, as discussed earlier, the Ohio Skills Bank is implementing workforce development efforts across a broad range of industries in each of the State's 12 economic development regions. Another example is Congressman FATTAH's State of Pennsylvania, which has more than 6,000 firms participating in nearly 80 partnerships, and 70,000 workers receiving training services since 2005.

To date, at least 39 States have adopted industry or sector strategies; but for the most part they are doing so in spite of the Workforce Investment Act, not because of it. As written, the Workforce Investment Act does not adequately support the hard work of convening multiple stakeholders and allowing a local area or a region to develop targeted depth and capacity in high-growth and emerging industries in a way that complements broader workforce development efforts. The SECTORS Act, introduced in the House, of which I am a cosponsor, would establish a separate title under WIA to support industry or sector partnerships and strategies. As a supporter of the legislation, I am working to ensure that the principles set forth in this bill are included in a reauthorized WIA.

Federal workforce development policy also needs to recognize that different workers enter the job market in different ways, from young people en-

tering apprenticeship programs or community colleges, dislocated workers seeking new skills to transition to new careers, to low-income adults enrolling in adult education courses to obtain the basic skills and the literacy needed to pursue an industry-recognized credential. For reasons of both equity and economic necessity, we must work to provide every individual interested in improving their skills with the means and the opportunity to do so while removing barriers they may face along the way.

Career pathways accomplish this goal of easing individuals into the job market by aligning adult education, job training and higher education systems to create seamless transitions for workers at all points of their educational and career trajectories. Successful career path models allow individuals to easily move between institutions and programs to acquire the skills and credentials they need to take advantage of new career opportunities while continuing to work and support their families.

As with sector partnerships, States have tapped into career pathways models as a way to provide economic opportunities for citizens while supplying businesses with new sources of talent. Washington State has had significant success with its own I-Best model, which combines occupational skills training, college-level coursework, and English language and basic skills education to prepare workers for a broad range of occupations. Research indicates that I-Best participants are more likely to continue into credit-bearing coursework and earn occupational credentials than other adult education students. Congressman BOBBY SCOTT's State of Virginia just recently announced the implementation of a statewide strategy to facilitate student transitions between education and employment systems and expand the provision of supportive services to ensure success.

Unfortunately, current law across a number of Federal programs—including WIA, the Higher Education Act and Temporary Assistance For Needy Families—presents significant obstacles to the development of career pathways, establishing different funding streams for various educational and employment programs and often creating conflicting performance measures between systems.

Even within a single program such as WIA, we often see disconnects in the system. For example, one outcome measure for an individual receiving adult basic education services under WIA title II is the attainment of a GED. However, simply having a GED does not mean that a person has the skills he or she needs to enroll in a job training program funded under WIA title I. Unfortunately, far too often people confronted with such obstacles get frustrated and drop out of the system and never get the skills they need to succeed in the workforce. We must

work to reduce the barriers between systems under current Federal law and create incentives for States to better align and connect their workforce development, education and human services systems. WIA authorization is certainly one great place to start.

Madam Speaker, with that, I would now yield to the distinguished Member from California, our Chair, the gentlelady from California, BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, the gentlelady from Ohio, for continuing to, as I say, beat the drum every Monday night on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, on behalf of many of our communities, which have been really shut out and marginalized for years and years and years but also on behalf of the American people because we know and we recognize, as members of the Congressional Black Caucus, that what's good for our communities, especially communities of color, the African American community, makes America stronger. It's good for the country. So thank you very much for continuing to lift our voices on behalf of the people.

Tonight you've done a great job talking about really the reason and the rationale that we have to embrace workforce development training, job training. Because so many of our constituents are not only recently unemployed, but they just haven't been employed for many, many years, for many, many historic reasons, many of which are systemic. The opportunities just have not been there. As I was listening to you, I was reminded of the new green industry. It's a trillion-dollar industry, but of course there are many in our country who don't have the requisite skills to be able to even apply for these jobs in this new industry.

I want to just call attention to one organization in my district, in Oakland California, the Oakland Green Job Corps, where young people are learning green technology, are learning to weatherize homes, are learning to put solar panels on roofs. They are learning and developing the skills necessary to be able to be fully employed in this new industry, and these are young people who may not have had a chance, had it not been for the Cyprus Mandela Training Center, Mayor Ron Dellums, our city of Oakland, and of course the Department of Labor and all of the partners who have helped put that together. Our energy czar from the White House, Ms. Brownner came out, and she looked at the Green Job Corps, and we are hoping that this will be seen as a model to replicate throughout the country.

Let me just remind you that the Congressional Black Caucus has historically been known as the conscience of the Congress, and we recognize that the dignity of all human beings is extremely important in our work to close these—some of us call it these moral gaps that exist, these disparities. And tonight of course we're talking about jobs, employment and unemployment.

Well, the good-paying jobs recognize the dignity of all human beings; and when people are unemployed, when they don't have jobs, it's very difficult to take care of their families, take care of themselves. As a person who majored in psychiatric social work, I understand all the psychological effects. We just see that each and every day now, the emotional trauma, the depression. Suicide rates are soaring now as a result of this Bush recession. So we have to remember that when people are unemployed, it's not only that they don't have a job to make money; but it's their self-esteem, their self-worth, it's their dignity that becomes shattered as a result of this, and so we have to work very hard each and every day to make sure that we provide the vehicles and the opportunities for everyone in our country to get a job.

The trigger may have been, of course, the bubble in the housing markets in terms of the unemployment rate; but I tell you, these excesses on Wall Street and the failure of the Bush administration to enforce any securities laws, the deregulation of the financial services industry—and I was on the Financial Services Committee for 8 years, and we kept talking about that with Chairman Greenspan, and there were very few who really wanted to bite the bullet and say, we have to not do this. But we did, unfortunately. So now we have an industry that's just run wild, really. It's run amok. We also have to remember that there was very little oversight of the banks, and this unfortunate situation has spread this crisis to each and every household and business in our country. We've seen 7 million jobs lost since the beginning of the Bush recession, and the unemployment rate has now risen to 9.4 percent nationally—14.9 percent, however, for African Americans and for Latinos.

Now during the Bush administration, 5 million more people fell into poverty. Unfortunately now we have 37 million Americans living in poverty, 47 million with no health insurance, and that is rising. So we have to tackle this because if we don't tackle this, we will have millions more living in poverty. Actually, last week the Congressional Black Caucus released our agenda as well as our biannual report, and we call it Opportunities for All—Pathways Out of Poverty.

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All members of the CBC put one of their bills on this agenda. We have 42 bills, and if you look at each and every one of the pieces of legislation that is pending that we consider our priority legislation, each one provides a pathway out of poverty and an opportunity for all.

We also, unfortunately, in the last few years have watched company after company cut their benefits, and millions more Americans now, as I said earlier, have lost their health insurance and their retirement plans and pension plans have fallen, unfortunately, off the table.

The last administration has left us and our Nation in shambles, and it is really critical that we come together to begin the work of providing opportunities for all in America and ending this spiral of poverty that is spiraling downward, unfortunately, with millions more people in this situation.

We have got to expand and extend the proven anti-poverty programs that were included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, like expanding access to the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. We have to maintain support for the vital extensions of unemployment insurance and COBRA health insurance.

Millions of Americans need these subsidies, while millions of Americans continue to face job loss and extended periods of unemployment. These are stopgap measures, but this has to be seen as necessary just to stop the hemorrhaging and give people some relief so they can survive and sustain themselves until the jobs that we are working so hard to create are created.

We have got to maintain support for and invest in education and job training programs, as Congresswoman FUDGE talked about earlier, and fully support initiatives such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which our colleague Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, who chairs the Housing and Opportunity Subcommittee of the Financial Services Committee, worked so hard with the Congressional Black Caucus' support to bring some stability to our hardest-hit communities.

But we all know we have to do more. We need to raise and index the minimum wage so that every working person can be assured that they will earn a wage that will lift them up and out of poverty each and every year without having to rely on legislation to keep up with increases in the cost of living. Yes, we increased the minimum wage several years ago; but I believe, like many of my colleagues believe, that we must support and find ways to provide for a living wage. Raising the minimum wage is not enough.

We also must ensure access to early childhood education, guarantee a quality public education for every American student, and make sure that every working family has access to affordable, quality child care.

Again, why is child care so important? Well, we have millions of women, millions of single moms and single men who want to work, but they can't afford the child care. So we cannot look at creating jobs without understanding we must provide for the job training and child care assistance so that they can really afford to get a job and will not have to worry about their young people.

Also, and oftentimes we forget this, there are millions of men now that we call in my community "formerly incarcerated individuals" who have been released from jail. We know that the recidivism rate is very high, and part of

the reason is because there is very little employment for these individuals. So we have to provide support for our reentry initiatives.

I am very proud of the fact that Congressman DANNY DAVIS, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus from Illinois, continues to work on behalf of those who would not have this second chance. We passed the Second Chance Act a couple of years ago, but we must fully fund this so that we can provide for that job training and those jobs for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Also our disconnected youth. We have young people who need jobs. Many families now, because of the fact that mothers and fathers are unemployed, oftentimes young people have to help, and they deserve to be able to get a job too. So we have to fully fund and support summer job programs for our young people, which I am very proud of the fact that President Obama, Speaker PELOSI and all of our leadership here, our majority whip, Mr. CLYBURN, supported with the economic recovery package to make sure we have funding in there for our summer jobs program for youth.

Also access to health care. Some of us believe, and I know many of us in the Congressional Black Caucus believe, that health care should not be a privilege. It is a basic right. It is a basic right, and as we begin health care debate, again we cannot forget that closing health care disparities in communities of color must be part of any health care reform package. Otherwise, those communities, those individuals who have historically been discriminated against in our health care system, and really that is what has happened over the years, it has been discrimination, they deserve to have some of these gaps closed. So this has to be part of, again, a comprehensive approach to job creation and employment.

So let me just conclude by saying that during this economic crisis, we think that we have to see this also as an opportunity to make the changes that we seek, some of the systemic changes that we seek, to guarantee access to health care, to guarantee and ensure fair and adequate housing for all, and to provide top-flight education for all of our children and support the growth of the new green living wage economy that will carry America into the 21st century.

We have to support the Employee Free Choice Act, because many of us in the African American community know if it hadn't been for labor unions, many of our families would not have become middle income. So the right to organize, the right to participate and to be in a union is essential, because when we are talking about jobs, we are not just talking about a job; but we are talking about a job with justice, jobs with good pay, with benefits, with a pension, with health care, the type of a job that any American deserves. So this Employee Free Choice Act is an

extremely important part of any jobs movement that we have developed here in the Congress.

The Congressional Black Caucus continues to be the conscience of the Congress, and we are going to continue to speak out and work with those who don't have a voice, who have been marginalized, and who could possibly be left behind were it not for members of the Congressional Black Caucus who stand strong, 42 of us, in moving forward an agenda, opportunities for all, pathways out of poverty.

Let me thank Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE again for stepping up to the plate and for bringing this very critical debate once again on a Monday night to the country.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I would again like to thank our Chair for her leadership. Certainly Congresswoman LEE has kept the focus of the CBC on those who have the least, and that is very, very important. She has kept our focus on job creation and has allowed us to be the voice for the voiceless. With her leadership, we know that we represent more of the poor than any other group of people in this House, and it is just refreshing to know that our focus as a caucus is on poverty and jobs. I thank you again for your leadership.

Ms. LEE of California. If the gentlelady will further yield for a moment, please, let me talk about very quickly one of the aspects of job creation and the issue as it relates to pay equity for women.

As I remember, the numbers are really staggering when you look at women. They make I think it is maybe 70-some cents on the dollar; African American women a lot less, maybe 60-some cents on the dollar; and Latinas even less than that.

I think it is very important as we talk about jobs and job creation, we have to really first applaud the President for signing the Lilly Ledbetter Act, and, secondly, in each and every initiative that we take here in the House, make sure that we look at the bills in terms of the type of equity and justice it brings to women, because women have a long way to go in our society.

We have made tremendous gains, but when you look at these moral gaps in terms of wages, we have to understand that we do need to take, and some don't want to say affirmative action, but I consider affirmative action a very Democratic policy, and so we do need to take affirmative action to make sure that these disparities in wages as they relate to women are closed and closed very quickly as we create these new jobs in the industries of the future.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Madam Chairman. I would say there are so many things we need to be addressing. Certainly what I have found in my home district is that as you look at what is happening with women and children, it is really appalling. Right

now, the fastest growing group of children in schools today are homeless children. That means their parents are homeless, and more times than not it is just a mother. So these are people who most of the time don't have jobs and don't have the ability to take care of their children, and we have to do what we have to do as a government. We have to make sure we provide.

So I am really happy that in the Recovery and Reinvestment Act we put significant money in there for shelters, for meals for children, for food stamps, for many things that I think are going to make their lives better. We have done what we think we needed to do to at least get them back moving in the right direction.

So I think you are right. As we look at where women are today, not just in equal pay, not just in benefits, but in how we live as people in this society, I think it is very, very important that we focus on where women are going in this society. I know that because of your leadership, that is one of the things the CBC has been looking at.

So I thank you again for all that you do to make sure that women get equal treatment, that women have the ability to raise their children in a positive and safe place, because if we hadn't done some of the things that we have done with this recovery package, where would they be? Certainly you may be poor, but you still deserve a decent place to live. You still deserve to be able to feed your children and send your kids to school in a safe environment.

Again, I thank you just for the kind of leadership that you have given to us that makes us really take a look at what is happening in our communities.

Ms. LEE of California. Well, I thank the gentlelady for her comments, and I just want to say, we have to look at what is taking place with everyone in our country during this economic downturn. Many have said, why would we do some of the things we did in the economic recovery package, such as many of the initiatives that you spoke of? How could we not do it? Otherwise we would leave millions behind once again. So that was a mandate that we had to do.

Another area that you helped us so brilliantly on was the involvement of and ensuring the involvement of minority and women-owned businesses in the economic recovery package.

Oftentimes, as difficult as it is when you lose a job and are unemployed, new opportunities open up. Small entrepreneurs now have the opportunity, those with creative ideas, to establish small businesses. We put I believe it was \$35 million in a micro-loan program, so the small entrepreneurs, people who have been unemployed, who want to start a business, who want to start whatever type of a business, can go to the SBA now and apply for a loan without having to go through all of the rigmarole that oftentimes businesses have to go through. Now people who

have been recently unemployed can have the opportunity to actually establish a small business so that they can take care of themselves and their families during this very difficult time.

We also made sure that we put some very strong language in terms of the involvement of minority and women-owned businesses in all the Federal funding that was coming through the agencies in our package, for example, the Department of Transportation and the infrastructure money.

Well, I am saying this loud and clear now to everyone in this country in terms of minority and women-owned businesses: that money that will be coming to these States, you have to make sure that you involve your minority and women-owned companies in contracts and subcontracts in this construction money, in this infrastructure money, because it is all well and good to be able to hire people for the jobs, but there are many who have the skills and the businesses who want to participate in the economic vitality of our country through the business route. So it is very important that our small and minority-owned and women-owned businesses are able to create the jobs themselves.

That is a Federal requirement. Hopefully, States are complying with the law. But if they are not, we definitely have an oversight process that is going to be looking at this.

I happily yield back to my colleague from Ohio.

□ 2100

Ms. FUDGE. Again, Madam Chairman, I think that we have done a lot of work in a very short period of time. And I thank you for your leadership, and certainly I thank our leadership, the leadership of our caucus, as well as the leadership of the administration of our Nation for their vision.

I yield back the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. KIND (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of family reasons.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of travel.

Mr. MACK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today, June 9 and 10 on account of attending his daughter's graduation.

Mrs. BONO MACK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today, June 9 and 10 on account of attending her daughter's graduation.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, June 12.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, June 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, June 12 and 15.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today, June 9, 10, 11, 12 and 15.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, June 12 and 15.

Mr. PAULSEN, for 5 minutes, June 9.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK, for 5 minutes, June 9.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 663. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12877 Broad Street in Sparta, Georgia, as the "Yvonne Ingram-Ephraim Post Office Building".

H.R. 918. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 East 3rd Street in Jamestown, New York, as the "Stan Lundine Post Office Building".

H.R. 1284. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office".

H.R. 1595. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building".

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 9, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2035. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order [Document Number: AMS-FV-09-0019; FV-09-703] received May 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2036. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Walnuts Grown in California; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 984; Correcting Amendment [Doc. No.: AO-192-A7; AMS-FV-07-0004; FV06-984-1 C] received May 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2037. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearment Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2009-2010 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-08-0104; FV09-985-1 FR] received May 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2038. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Onions Grown in South Texas; Change in Regulatory Period [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-309-0012; FV09-959-1 IFR] received May 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2039. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Order; Termination [Document Number: AMS-FV-09-0006; FV-09-701] received May 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2040. A letter from the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter to report the Antideficiency Act violation, Army case number 06-07, estimated at \$32,144,000, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

2041. A letter from the Major General, USAF Vice Director, Defense Logistics Agency, transmitting notification that the Section 14 Biennial Requirements Report has been delayed pending completion of the Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC) report to accompany H.R. 3222, the FY 2008 National Defense Appropriations Bill, S. Rep. No. 110-155; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2042. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy, transmitting a letter notifying Congress of a performance decision by the Department of the Navy to convert the information assurance functions currently being performed by eight (8) military personnel of the Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility, located in Virginia Beach, VA; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2043. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acquisition Regulation: Security Clause (RIN: 1991-AB71) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2044. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Organ-Specific Warnings; Internal Analgesic, Antipyretic, and Antirheumatic Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Final Monograph [[Docket No.: FDA-1977-N-0013] (formerly Docket No.: 1977N-0094L)] (RIN: 0910-AF36) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2045. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 73 and 74 of the Commission's Rules to Establish Rules for Replacement Digital Low Power Television Translator Stations [MB Docket No.: 08-253] received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2046. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.